



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/677,288      | 10/03/2003  | Chad Gebow           | 21593.00            | 9642             |
| 7590            | 04/01/2004  |                      |                     |                  |
|                 |             |                      | EXAMINER            |                  |
|                 |             |                      | GALL, LLOYD A       |                  |
|                 |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|                 |             |                      | 3676                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 04/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                           |                  |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No.           | Applicant(s)     |
|                              | 10/677,288                | GEBOW ET AL.     |
|                              | Examiner<br>Lloyd A. Gall | Art Unit<br>3676 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) 4-9 is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 03 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 7, line 11, "opening" should be replaced with --openings--. On page 9, line 17, a period should follow "52". On page 10, line 11, "38" should be replaced with --18--. On page 11, line 12, "58" should be replaced with --52--. On page 12, line 18, the first occurrence of "and" should be replaced with --any--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 1, 5, 8 and 9 are objected to because of the following informalities: In the last line of page 14, there is no antecedent basis for "the lock mechanism". In the last line of claim 5, "receiver" should be replaced with --receiving--. In claim 8, line 4, "surface" should be replaced with --face--. In claim 9, line 3, "grove" at the end of the line should be replaced with --groove--. Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shepherd in view of Kohout.

As seen in the figs. 1-2 embodiment, Shepherd teaches a trailer wheel lock device, including an elongate rod 17 having a lock 20 mounted at a first head end of the rod and a stop 18 mounted at the second end of the rod for extending through a trailer wheel and locking same. Column 3, lines 1-5 of Shepherd teaches locking opposed trailer

wheels using two locking devices of the type shown in figs. 1-2. Fig. 3 of the Kohout reference teaches locking opposed (door) elements using two rods 20a, 20b and a stop 22 at the second end of the rod and a head end 26 of the rod having at least one annular groove to receive a lock 50. A figure 7 embodiment of Kohout teaches that the two rod embodiment of fig. 3 may be replaced with a single rod embodiment, including a stop 370 at the second end of the rod, and a lock 350 at the first head end of the rod, and further including a washer 330, 32 at both ends of the rod. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute a single rod embodiment including a washer at each end of the rod and an annular groove in the rod to receive a lock, for the two rod locking system of Shepherd, in view of the teaching of Kohout, the motivation being to require only a single key lock to be actuated to allow unlocking removal of the rod from one side of the vehicle.

Claims 4-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

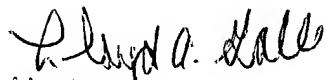
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lloyd A. Gall whose telephone number is 703-308-0828. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 703-308-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LG LG  
March 25, 2004

  
Lloyd A. Hall  
Primary Examiner